

EFFECT OF THE LAW

The Workings of McKinleyism to Be Ascertained.

CONGRESS ORDERS AN INQUIRY

The Committee on Agriculture will propose a Report on to its influence upon the Farmers of the Country.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The house of representatives of the fifty-second congress has decided that the first investigation into the operations of the McKinley law shall be conducted by the committee on agriculture. This arrangement has the informal sanction of the chairman of the ways and means committee, as the inquiry of Chairman Hatch and his committee is to be directed particularly to the effect that the high tariff has had upon the agricultural interests of the country. It is understood that later on the committee on manufacturers will be authorized to conduct an inquiry as to the effect of the tariff law on the manufacturers and skilled wage-workers, and thus in the end reports will be made on the various phases of the new law by as many different committees.

Tariff to the Farmers.

Mr. Hatch (Mo.) brought the tariff question to the front Monday by moving to suspend the rules and adopt a resolution requesting the committee on agriculture to report the effect upon agriculture of the present tariff law.

Mr. Funston Speaks.

In the discussion which followed Mr. Funston (Kan.) raised his voice in opposition. If there could be a fair and impartial investigation of the effects of the present tariff law on the agricultural interests he would be in favor of it. It could hardly be expected, however, that an investigation of this character could be made without being made upon a party basis. The fact that the house went into this investigation was a declaration of the part of the house that it believed the McKinley bill was injuring the farmers of the country. This was not true. The duties on the farmers' products had been increased, while the things the farmers had to buy were to-day cheaper than before the McKinley bill was passed.

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